RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 11th March, 1987/20th Phalguna, 1908 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*201. [The questioners (Shri Mukhtiar Singh Malik and Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury were absent. For answers vide col. 38 infra]

Manufacture of jelly-filled and other cable

*202. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:†

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether optical, jelly-filled and other new types of telephone cables are planned to be manufactured in the country in the near future;

(b) which are the companies which have been issued licences for the production of each of these new types of cables;

(c) what are the names of the foreign companies with whom technology transfer or technical know-how agreements have been signed;

(d) what will be the annual licensed production capacity of these companies which have been issued licenses for manufacture;

(e) what will be the length in kilometres of coaxial, jelly-filled and optical system cables separately by 1989-90 and what has been the length of said cable manufactured in 1983-84, 1984-85 and so far, if any; and

(f) what will be the production and demand of these types of cables in the country, separately, by 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

1. Dry-core and Jelly-filled telephone cables are already being manufactured in the country by M/s Hindustan Cables Limited and Traco; in the Public Sector, and other private and joint-sector manufacturers.

The manufacturing capacity for jelly-filled telephone cables is proposed to be expanded in the country.

Plans are also in hand for setting up manufacture of optical fibre cables.

2. Annexure-I gives the list of manufacturers who have been licensed to produce jelly-filled cables with the licensed production capacity of each and the name of the foreign collaborate, if any (*See* befew items. That is my personal view.

Annexure-II gives the names of the compaines licensed to manufacture optical fibre cables with their capacity and the name of the foreign collaborator (*See* below).

3. Annexure-III gives annual production in cable sheath Kms. of coaxial, jelly-filled and optical fibre cables during 1983-84, 1984-85 and likely in 1989-90 (*See* below).

4. Annexure-IV gives the likely demand of various types of cables during 1989-90 and the corresponding production in the country. (*See* below).

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh.

Annexure-I

Licences for Manufacture of Telecom. Cables including Jelly Filled

S.No.	Name of Firms	Total capacity including Jeely Filled	Name of Foreign collaborator.
1	M/s. PSIDC Chandigarh	10 LCKM*	AEC Telefunken Ltd. W. Germany
2	M/s. H.C.L. Hyderabad old Unit.	13 LCKM	Nil
3	M/s. HCL Hyderabad New Unit (30LCKM)	30 LCKM	STC U.K.
4	M/s. HCL Rupnarainpur (W.B.)	22 LCKM	Nil
5	M/s. Upcom Cables Ltd. Rae Bareilly	5 LCKM	CEAT, Italy
6	M/s. Karnataka Telecables Ltd. Mysore	5 LCKM	Pheps Dodge Int. Corpn. USA.
7	M/s. Vindhya Telelinks Ltd. Rewa (M.P.)	5 LCKM	Erissson Cables Sweden
8	M/s. Finolex Cables New Delhi Ltd. Pune	5 LCKM	United Technologies ESS FX groups USA
9	M/s. Sterlite Cables Raigarh (MP)	5 LCKM	Do.
10	M/s. Traco Cables Alleppy (Kerala)	11 LCKM	General Cable International INC USA
11	M/s. Teleink Nicco NADIA	5 LCKM	General Cables USA
12	Delton Cables New Delhi	5 LCKM	Nil

A few others have been issued letters of Intent which have not yet been converted into licenses.

*LCKM.—Lalks Conductor Kilometer.

Annexure-II

Indigineous manufacturers for optical Fiber cables

Optical Fiber Cables	Capacity	Name of Foreign Collaborators
1. M/s. Hindustan Cables Ltd.	40,000 Fibre Km.	To be finalized
2. M/s. Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation	20,000 Fibre Km.	To be Finalized

Annexure-III

Lengths of Coaxial optical fibres and Jelly filled and dry core cables produced during 83-84, 84-85 *and likely in* 89-90

	Produced during		Likely production
	83-84	84-85	89-90
1. Dry Core Telephone Cable of various sizes (LCKM)*	25.0	25.0	15.0
2. Jelly Filled Telephone Cable of various sizes (LCKM)	3.7	5.6	85.0
Coaxial Cables (Sheath Kms.)	884	1023	300
Optical Fibre Cable (Sheath Km.)	Nil	Nil	1100

*LCKM .— Lakhs Conductor Kilometres.

Annexure-IV

Demands and likely Production during 1989-80

	demand	Production
1. Dry Core Telephone Cable	15.0 LCKM*	15.0 LCKM
2. Jelly Filled Telephone Cable	85.0 LCKM	85.0 LCKM
3. Coaxial Cable	300 Kms	300 Kms.
4. Optical Fibre Cables	100 Kms.	1100 Kms.

*LCKM .—Lakhs Conductor Kilometre.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have seen the statement. I am thankful that we are specialisting in telecommunications. And let us confine our specialisation only to a few items That is my personal view. But the requirement is decrease in high technology fault rates. And also the confusion in selection of foreign technology should be avoided because ,I have seen the list of collaboration with so many countries, and this confusion—I cannot argue in a question—may lead to preposterous results sometimes. My first supplementary would be that the information about the selected company, the main terms and conditions including technology transfer, period for contract, prices on which the memorandum of understanding has been signed or futher letter of intent or orders issued thereon may kindly be intimated to me.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, this is basically a question of the Industry Department. I have, in my answer, has given 12 firms which are public sector as well as State-owned joint sector undertakings. The DEO and the Ministry of Industry decide the countries which will be the collaborator. And I am sure they take into consideration the various aspects which the hon. Member has said. Anyhow, I can pass on the information to the Industry Ministry that proper care should be taken and there should not be too much mixed-up technology which the hon. Member has suggested.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, four types of cables are given in the answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why did you put this question to the Telecommunications Minister? You should have put it to the Industry Minister. It depends on what you want. If you wanted with regard to collaboration, with regard to cost and everything, they are all matters relating to the Industry Ministry.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, sometimes.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must also be careful. Now, put your second supplementary.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: I want to know about one MP project, the optical fibre project. Before we have done it, a dispute has arisen. And I wanted to point out the dispute to the hon. Minister because it is directly concerned with his Ministry. The controversy is between the HCL and the MP State Electronics Development Corporation over the production of optical fibres and the connected equipment by the former or the latter. The question is what technology has been selected for the MP project and what are the main terms and conditions including technology transfer period, contract price, letter of intent or order issued to the foreign company.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid this Minister cannot reply.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: This does not relate to me.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask about item (e) of this question, about the length of the coaxial line. Sir, there is one project going on in Southern India for the laying of the coaxial line between Aurangabad and Hyderabad. And in this House, the Communications Minister has given the answer that the work of laying this line will be completed by the end of 1987. Is the work making that progress that it will be completed in record time as it has been answered in this House?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I would take care that the commitment which has been made is kept. And I will monitor it personally.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 203.

Dornier planes

*203. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:†
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been frequent cases of engine failure in the Dornier planes of Vayudoot;

(b) what is the number of reported cases of such failures during October, November and December, 1986.

(c) what were the reasons for these failures; and

(d) what steps are being taken to avoid such failures in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) There were four Garret engine premature removals in the month of October, three in November and one in December, 1986.

(c) Out of these 8 engine premature removals, 4 were due to inherent design short-comings or material failure, two engines had sustained damage due to bird ingestion and one due to foreign object damage. The remaining one was due to operational reasons.

(d) In respect of premature removals due to design short-comings of material failure,

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Suresh Kalmadi.